

## **Praying Through Luke 2:8-20**

Lord Jesus, words of praise are inadequate and words of thanks cannot express the appreciation and love we have for You and for Your coming into our world as a little baby born to humble parents and laid in a manger. We give You our hearts, our minds, our strength, and our souls to be of service to You and Your children. Help us honor, worship, and praise You with the heart, loyalty, and spirit that You alone deserve.

Heavenly Father, we offer You our tribute and thanksgiving for sending Your angels to the lowly shepherds in a lonely field who were working and watching all night to protect their sheep. Indeed, we thank You for sending Jesus Christ, Your one and only begotten Son, to be our Great Shepherd. We run to Him as the One who watches over and cares for us as the sheep in His flock, because He has never lost one of them. Indeed, He sacrificed His life to save us even though we had rebelliously strayed from Your loving will for us. Thank You for the good news You shared with the shepherds that became good news for us too. We celebrate the priceless gift of Your Son not only during the Christmas season but throughout the year. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell within us to pray in ways that our words cannot express. Show us those thoughts and ways still within us that we need to turn from so there is more room in our lives for Your Holy presence.

Lord Jesus, help us obey You each day as our Lord with the joy that the shepherds must have felt after they heard the angels praise You and as they hurried to Bethlehem to find You. Help us find the joy and peace that can only be found in You. Enable us to tell others the truth about You so we can glorify Your Name and help others find the joy, peace, and salvation that You have given us. Show us how we can better spread the good news about You as our Lord and Savior and the Lord and Savior of all who will entrust their lives and their futures to You. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

**Please Note:** I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith

Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.